

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02497 101619Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 CU-02 A-01 OPR-02 MCT-01
SY-05 USSS-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /098 W
-----102009Z 126376 /40

R 101427Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1593
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG
SUBJ: REFERENDUM ON SADAT'S SECURITY DECREE

REF (A) CAIRO 2069, (B) CAIRO 2144, (C) CAIRO 2313,

1. NATION GOES TO POLLS TODAY 10 FEB, TO VOTE ON SECURITY
DECREE PROPOSED BY SADAT IN FEB 3 SPEECH (REF A). GOE HAS
SET UP 15,700 POLLING PLACES, WHICH WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN
0800 AND 1700 TO ACCOMMODATE 9.5 MILLION VOTERS IT SAYS
WILL TURN OUT. VOTE COUNT WILL BE SUPERVISED BY 223 JUSTICE
MIN OFFICIALS AND FINAL RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED
MORNING OF FEB 11. WE EXPECT OVERWHELMING APPROVAL.

2. IN PAST WEEK, GOE HAS MADE STRENUOUS, WELL COORDINATED
PUBLIC EFFORT TO SET STAGE FOR WHAT WILL BE CAST AS VINDICA-
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TION OF SADAT POLICIES BY VAST MAJORITY OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE.
SECURITY MEASURES OF DECREE HAVE BEEN PRESENTED AS EFFORT
SIMPLY TO PROTECT NATION FROM INSIDIOUS MINORITY WHO WISH TO
THREATN SECURITY, OVERTHROW REGIME AND PUSH BACK CLOCK TO
"DAYS OF DESPOTIC RULE" (PRIMIN SALIM). WITHERING FIRE ON
PARTIES ON LEFT (REF C) AND ON SOVIETS FOR INDEFINITE ROLE
BEHIND JAN 18-19 DISCURPTIONS HAS BEEN SUSTAINED BY GOE OFFICIALS

FROM SADAT ON DOWN AND BY MASS MEDIA. COUNTERPOINT HAS BEEN EMPHASIS THAT DECREE DOES NOT REPRESENT STEP BACKWARD FROM POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AT SAME TIME, PROVISIONS OF DECREE FOR SEVERE PENALTIES FOR TAX EVADERS HAS ALSO RECEIVED MAJOR EMPHASIS.

3. AS POLLS OPEN, MORNING EDITORIALS STRESS THAT EGYPT'S ENTIRE NATIONAL DESTINY AT STAKE IN REFERENDUM BUT EXPRESS CONFIDENCE IN "TUMULTUOUS SUPPORT" EGYPTIAN PEOPLE WILL EXTEND TODAY." ATMOSPHERE SEEMS UNCERTAIN. MORNING TRAFFIC WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT AND SOME SCHOOLS CLOSED, PERHAPS FOR USE AS POLLING PLACES. THERE IS VAGUE RUMOR CIRCULATING THAT TROUBLE COULD BE EXPECTED FROM NASSERITE UNIV STUDENTS. AT LEAST SOME PEOPLE PLAYING IT SAFE BY STAYING AT HOME. HOW THINGS GO TODAY MAY AFFECT DECISION OF GOE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO REOPEN UNIV FEB 11.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770255/aaaabwsa.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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